

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05375 020855Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 EB-11 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-10 IO-13

OMB-01 RSR-01 /096 W

----- 117763

R 020751Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5199

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 5375

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SOUTH KOREAN COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN LAOS

1. VIENTIANE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED JULY 31 THAT THE CABINET HAD AGREED JULY 25 TO A REQUEST BY SOUTH KOREA FOR COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN LAOS. THE REPRESENTATION WILL NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS BUT WILL ENJOY THE SAME FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES AS A CONSULATE.

2. COMMENT: LAOS AND SOUTH KOREA CURRENTLY CONDUCT THEIR RELATIONS THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK. SEVERAL YEARS AGO SOUTH KOREA PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LAOS, BUT WHEN TOLD THAT LAO NEUTRALITY DEMANDED A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA, THE SOUTH KOREANS DROPPED THE PROPOSAL SINCE THEY CLAIMED THAT THE ROK REPRESENTED ALL OF KOREA. THE NEW KOREAN REQUEST FOLLOWS THE VISIT TO LAOS LAST YEAR OF THE KOREAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUK HEUN YUN AND THE VISIT OF LAO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FINANCE HOUMPHAN SAIGNASITH TO SOUTH KOREA IN APRIL. SINCE THE ROK HAS NOW AGREED TO THE ENTRY OF BOTH KOREAS INTO THE UN AS SEPARATE STATES, LAOS MAY WELL EXTEND SIMILAR REPRESENTATION PRIVILEGES TO NORTH KOREA ONCE THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 05375 020855Z

DEAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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